

Rep. Kathy Castor
Leveraging Our Water and Energy data to Reduce (LOWER) Energy Bills Act of 2022
Section by Section

Section 1. Short Title; Table of Contents.

This section establishes the bill’s title as the Leveraging Our Water and Energy data to Reduce (LOWER) Energy Bills Act of 2022 and provides a Table of Contents.

Section 2. Findings.

This section outlines findings related to the building energy benchmarking and transparency initiative.

Section 3. Covered Property Benchmarking and Transparency Initiative.

This section directs the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator, in coordination with the Secretary of Energy and other relevant agencies and stakeholders, to develop and carry out a benchmarking and transparency initiative for commercial and multifamily properties to advance the knowledge of building owners and occupants regarding building energy and water use and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and to inform efforts to reduce energy and water use and GHG emissions nationwide.

Section 4. National Benchmarking Requirement.

This section directs the EPA Administrator to require each owner of a covered property to submit data annually to the Administrator (a “benchmarking submission”).

Section 5. Exemptions and Extensions.

This section outlines exemptions from and time extensions for meeting benchmarking requirements.

Section 6. Data Transparency and Sharing.

This section directs the EPA Administrator to make publicly available data to help inform owners, managers, tenants, and the market at large about the energy and water performance of covered properties on an annual basis.

Section 7. Federal Assistance.

This section directs the EPA Administrator to improve the Energy Star Portfolio Manager and to provide technical and financial assistance to any state or local government that has or intends to establish a building energy and water benchmarking requirement.

Section 8. Penalties.

This section gives the EPA Administrator the authority to assess penalties for noncompliance with the requirements of the benchmarking and transparency initiative.

Section 9. Report.

This section directs the EPA Administrator to conduct an assessment of the benchmarking and transparency initiative and submit to Congress a report on the findings of the assessment and any recommendations for modifications to improve the impact of the initiative.

Section 10. Residential Benchmarking Study.

This section directs the EPA Administrator, in consultation and coordination with the Secretary of Energy to conduct a study on energy rating and assessment programs for residential buildings to be submitted to Congress.

Section 11. Regulations.

This section authorizes the EPA Administrator to promulgate and revise such regulations as are necessary to carry out the benchmarking and transparency initiative.

Section 12. Definitions.

This section defines terms used in this Act.

Section 13. Authorization of Appropriations.

This section authorizes appropriations in the amount of \$10,000,000 for each of Fiscal Years 2023 through 2027, to remain available until expended, to develop and carry out the benchmarking and transparency initiative, including to promulgate initial regulations.

This section authorizes appropriations in the amount of \$60,000,000 for each of Fiscal Years 2023 through 2032, to remain available until expended, to implement the benchmarking and transparency initiative, including:

- \$5,000,000 to improve Energy Star Portfolio Manager;
- \$50,000,000 to provide technical and financial assistance to state and local governments that have or intend to establish building energy and water benchmarking initiatives, and
- \$5,000,000 to enforce the requirements of the initiative.